

Appl. No. 10/790,844
Amdt. dated November 29, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 29, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently amended)** In a device for measuring the level of a fluid in a fuel tank of a motor vehicle, the fuel tank including a sound guide conduit disposed in the fuel tank, a fluid feeding device in the fuel tank, and at least one ultrasonic transducer disposed near one end of the sound guide conduit for generating ultrasonic pulses and for receiving the ultrasonic pulses reflected in the region of the surface of the fluid in the fuel tank, the improvement wherein the sound guide conduit and the ultrasonic transducer are disposed in the fuel tank (1) on an outer circumference of the fluid feeding device (6), **wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises a horizontal or oblique forward-flow region (11) disposed near the fuel tank bottom (12).**

2. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) and/or the ultrasonic transducer (3) is cast, glued, welded, clipped, or screwed onto the outer circumference of the fluid feeding device (6).

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently amended)** The device in accordance with claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the forward-flow region (11) is straight or looped.

5. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises at least one bend (15) with one deflection (13) each and/or at least one straight region (29) with a conduit slope angle.

6. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises at least one reference reflection surface (19).

7. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) has at least two openings (17) communicating with the interior of the fuel tank.

8. **(Currently amended)** The device in accordance with claim 1, ~~In a device for measuring the level of a fluid in a fuel tank of a motor vehicle, the fuel tank including a sound guide conduit disposed in the fuel tank, a fluid feeding device in the fuel tank, and at least one ultrasonic transducer disposed near one end of the sound guide conduit for generating ultrasonic pulses and for receiving the ultrasonic pulses reflected in the region of the surface of the fluid in the fuel tank, the improvement wherein the ultrasonic transducer is disposed in the fuel tank (1) on an outer circumference of the fluid feeding device (6);~~ wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises a flexible portion (39).

9. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic transducer (3) is simultaneously a transmitter and a receiver.

10. **(Currently amended)** In a device for measuring the level of a fluid in a container, the container including a sound guide conduit disposed in the container, a fluid feeding device in the container, and at least one ultrasonic transducer disposed near one end of the sound guide conduit for generating ultrasonic pulses and for receiving the ultrasonic pulses reflected in the region of the surface of the fluid in the container, the improvement wherein the sound guide conduit and the ultrasonic transducer are disposed in the container (1) on an outer circumference of the fluid feeding device (6), wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises a horizontal or oblique forward-flow region (11) disposed near the container bottom (12).

11. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) and/or the ultrasonic transducer (3) is cast, glued, welded, clipped, or screwed onto the outer circumference of the fluid feeding device (6).

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Currently amended)** The device in accordance with claim ~~[[12]]~~ 10, wherein the forward-flow region (11) is straight or looped.

14. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises at least one bend (15) with one deflection (13) each and/or at least one straight region (29) with a conduit slope angle.

15. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises at least one reference reflection surface (19).

16. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) has at least two openings (17) communicating with the interior of the container.

17. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the sound guide conduit (2) comprises a flexible portion (39).

18. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the ultrasonic transducer (3) is simultaneously a transmitter and a receiver.

19. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the fluid feeding device (6) is a fuel pumping device.

20. **(Previously presented)** The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fluid feeding device (6) is a fuel pumping device.